

STEVENSON, O. J. *The Talking Wire: The Story of Alexander Graham Bell*. New York: Julian Bessner, Inc., 1947. 207 p. \$2.50.

If readers both young and old could see this attractive little book and read the information on the jacket they would want to read the book at once. What a mission Alexander Graham Bell picked out for himself in life! He early began experiments in speech and sound. His mother was deaf and he, when a young man, married a deaf girl. He taught a deaf boy and always kept up his interest in aiding the deaf to be able to learn and communicate with others.

The invention of the telephone proved to be a long, hard experiment. Ill health and lack of money might have caused him to give up, but he was definite in his purpose and finally achieved his goal. In 1875 he invented the telephone and was just in time, and the patent was granted to him. He lived in Scotland, Canada and the United States. He, like Edison, spent some of his most interesting boyhood and early manhood days in Boston.

Dr. Stevenson the author of this very fine story attended school in Brantford, Ontario, where Alexander Graham Bell went with his parents to live when they first came to Canada. It was here, later while on vacation from Boston, that the idea and experimenting with the telephone went on, for with Bell it was ever uppermost in his mind, until he had really made it operate and work. He was greatly pleased when he was asked to demonstrate the new invention to Queen Victoria.

The Bell home was named Beinn Bhreagh, which meant, "beautiful mountain." Dr. Gilbert Grosvenor and Dr. David Fairchild, were his sons-in-law, each to become distinguished, the former as editor of the *National Geographic Magazine* and the latter as a plant explorer.

The book is illustrated by Lawrence Dresser, who studied Art in New York and Paris and is especially interested in book illustration and enjoys "period books."

—F. M. D.